

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-38 (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A grid for a battery comprising:

a plurality of wire elements, each wire element having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces;  
and

a material comprising a lead alloy coated on substantially all surfaces of the wire elements;

wherein at least one of the wire elements has a first transverse cross-section taken at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire element and a second transverse cross-section taken at one of the opposed ends of the wire element, the second transverse cross-section being generally rectangular and the first transverse cross-section being non-rectangular.

40. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 39 wherein a first opposed end of the at least one wire element has a transverse cross-sectional shape that differs from a second opposed end of the at least one wire element.

41. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 39 wherein the first transverse cross-section has a shape selected from the group consisting of diamond, oval, rhomboid, hexagon, and octagon.

42. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 39 wherein the material comprising a lead alloy is porous.

43. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 39 wherein the lead alloy comprises a lead-tin alloy.

44. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 43 wherein the lead-tin alloy comprises about 90 weight percent to about 99 weight percent lead and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin.
45. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 44 wherein the lead-tin alloy further includes antimony.
46. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 43 wherein the lead-tin alloy comprises about 80 weight percent to about 98 weight percent lead, about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin, and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent antimony.
47. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 46 wherein the material comprising a lead alloy has a melting point less than 620 degrees Fahrenheit.
48. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 44 wherein the grid comprises a lead-calcium alloy.
49. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 48 wherein the lead-calcium alloy comprises about 0.06 weight percent to about 0.07 weight percent calcium.
50. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 49 wherein the lead-calcium alloy comprises at least 0.8 weight percent tin.
51. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 50 wherein the lead-calcium alloy comprises about 1.2 weight percent to about 1.5 weight percent tin.
52. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 51 wherein the lead-calcium alloy comprises tin in a ratio to calcium of greater than 12:1.
53. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 52 wherein the lead-calcium alloy comprises from about 0 to about 0.02 weight percent silver.

54. (Currently Amended) A grid for a battery comprising:

a plurality of wires having a plurality of surfaces, at least one of the wires having a substantially rectangular cross-section at a first location and a non-rectangular cross-section at a second location;

a plurality of apertures provided between the plurality of wires; and

a coating comprising a lead alloy provided on the plurality of surfaces of the plurality of wires;

wherein the coating is configured to couple an active material to the plurality of wires.

55. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 54 wherein the plurality of wires include a plurality of planar surfaces.

56. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 55 wherein the plurality of apertures are defined by surfaces that are transverse to the plurality of planar surfaces.

57. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 56 wherein the coating is disposed on the surfaces that are transverse to the plurality of planar surfaces.

58. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 54 wherein the lead alloy comprises a lead-tin alloy comprising about 90 weight percent to about 99 weight percent lead and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin.

59. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 58 wherein the lead-tin alloy further includes antimony.

60. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 54 wherein the lead alloy comprises a lead-tin alloy comprising about 80 weight percent to about 98 weight percent lead, about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin, and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent antimony.

61. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 60 wherein the coating has a melting point less than 620 degrees Fahrenheit.

62. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 60 wherein the grid includes a lug.

63. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 60 wherein the active material comprises a paste.

64. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 54 wherein the non-rectangular cross-section is one of a diamond, an oval, a rhomboid, a hexagon, and an octagon.

65. (Currently Amended) A grid for a battery comprising:  
means for supporting an active material; and  
a layer of material provided over ~~at least a portion of~~ and substantially  
covering the means for supporting the active material;  
~~wherein the layer substantially covers the means for supporting the active~~  
~~material;~~  
wherein the means for supporting an active material includes at least one wire element having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape at a first location and a non-rectangular cross-sectional shape at a second location.

66. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 65 wherein the means for supporting the active material comprises a network bordered by at least one frame element.

67. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 66 wherein the means for supporting the active material comprises a plurality of spaced apart wires having a plurality of surfaces.

68. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 67 wherein the means for supporting the active material comprises a plurality of apertures between the plurality of spaced apart wires.

69. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 68 wherein the layer of material comprises a lead alloy.

70. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 69 wherein the plurality of spaced apart wires include a plurality of planar surfaces.

71. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 70 wherein the plurality of apertures are defined by surfaces that are transverse to the plurality of planar surfaces.

72. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 71 wherein the layer of material is disposed on the surfaces that are transverse to the plurality of planar surfaces.

73. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 65 wherein the layer of material comprises a lead-tin alloy comprising about 90 weight percent to about 99 weight percent lead and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin.

74. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 73 wherein the lead-tin alloy further includes antimony.

75. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 69 wherein the layer of material comprises about 80 weight percent to about 98 weight percent lead, about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent tin, and about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent antimony.

76. (Previously Presented) The grid of Claim 75 wherein the layer of material has a melting point less than 620 degrees Fahrenheit.